

a polypeptide having the full length amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, except that said ALK-7 polypeptide is truncated and signaling incompetent and/or dominant negative.

*A4
cont*

36. (NEW) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 35, wherein said truncated ALK-7 polypeptide is ALK-7DN.

37. (NEW) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a constitutively active ALK-7TD polypeptide, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the full length amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, except that said amino acid sequence contains an Asp at position 194 of SEQ ID NO:2 instead of a Thr.--

REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute, without traverse, the claims encompassed by Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and recombinant cells. Applicants retain the right to file one or more divisional applications to the unelected subject matter.

Claims 1, 8 and 10-22 have been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to reflect a change in dependency from claim 1 to claim 2. Claim 9 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 23 and 24 have been added to claim the subject matter heretofore found in claim 2.

Claim 25 has been added to claim the subject matter heretofore found in claim 8.

New claims 26-37 have also been added, drawn to elected and disclosed subject matter.

Support for the added claims can be found throughout the disclosure and claims as originally filed, as well as specifically as follows: claim 26 at page 15, lines 4-5; claim 27 at page 9, lines 20-27; claim 28 at page 33, lines 11-17; claim 29 at page 41, lines 7-16 and page 47, line 23-page 49, line 15; claim 30 at page 42, lines 1-17; claims 31-32 at page 43, lines 9-27; claim 33 at page 45, lines 14-25; claim 34 at page 93, lines 13-21; and claims 35-37 at page 95, line 20-page 96, line 9. No new matter has been introduced with the added claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the claims are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. No fee is believed due in conjunction with the present amendment. If this is incorrect, please charge Lyon & Lyon Deposit Account No. 12-2475 for the appropriate amount. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (858) 552-8400.

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles S. Berkman
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 38,077

LYON & LYON, LLP
633 West Fifth Street, Suite 4700
Los Angeles, California 90071-2066
Telephone: (858) 552-8400